

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: RABIN'S REMARKS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON ISSUES AND
ANSWERS, SEPTEMBER 7

1. POSTS MAY BE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING EXCHANGE BETWEEN
PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND BOB CLARK OF ABC NEWS ON ISSUES
AND ANSWERS, SEPT 7, CONCERNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

MR. CLARK: MR. PRIME MINISTER, THE EVIDENCE THAT ISRAEL
HAS AT LEAST A SMALL NUMBER OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS ONE OF
THE THINGS THAT DISTRUBS MANY AMERICANS. THE DANGER OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS BEING USED IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

WOULD ISRAEL BE WILLING TO RENOUNCE THE USE OF NUCLEAR
FORCE AS PART OF AN OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE
MIDDLE EAST?

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PRIME MINISTER RABIN: WELL, FIRST, YOUR ASSUMPTION IS WRONG. I HAVE STATED TIME AND AGAIN ISRAEL IS A NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRY.

MR. CLARK: ARE YOU STATING FLATLY THAT ISRAEL HAS NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS --

PRIME MINISTER RABIN: I HAVE STATED THAT ISRAEL IS A NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRY. WE WILL NOT BE THE FIRST TO INTRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO THE AREA, AND IN THE CASE THAT THERE WOULD BE AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT, THAT IS TO SAY A PEACE AGREEMENT WE WILL SIGN EVERY AGREEMENT ABOUT A NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

MR. CLARK: IN THE INTERIM, MR. PRIME MINISTER, WITH THE NEW AMERICAN COMMITMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WOULD YOU RENOUNCE THE USE OF NUCLEAR FORCE IF YOU WERE SURE THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR UMBRELLA SHELTERED YOU AGAINST ANY POSSIBLE NUCLEAR ATTACK?

PRIME MINISTER RABIN: WELL, SINCE SUCH A PROPOSAL HAS NOT BEEN PUT BEFORE ISRAEL AND I WOULD NOT ADVISE ANY ISRAELI TO ASK FOR IT FROM THE UNITED STATES, BECAUSE, IF YOU FIRST TALK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO MAJOR POWERS, THAT CAUSES WORRIES IN THE UNITED STATES, BY ASKING IT, WE INCREASE THE THREAT THAT THERE WOULD BE A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO MAJOR POWERS.

WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN ESCALATING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO MAJOR POWERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

MR. CLARK: WOULD YOU BE RECEPTIVE TO SUCH AN OFFER BY THE UNITED STATES? IF WE SAID, QUOTE IF YOU WILL RENOUNCE THE USE OF NUCLEAR FORCE, WE WILL COVER YOU WITH OUR NUCLEAR UMBRELLA? UNQUOTE.

PRIME MINISTER RABIN: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO RENOUNCE? WE HAVE SAID THAT WE ARE NON-NUCLEAR; THAT WE WILL NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTRODUCE. WHAT DO YOU WANT MORE?

MR. CLARK: OF COURSE, YOU HAVE NEVER SAID YOU DO NOT HAVE ANY NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

PRIME MINISTER RABIN: I BELIEVE THEIR INTERPRETATION OF WHAT WE HAVE SAID IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU SAID.

MR. CLARK: I STILL DIDN'T HEAR A DENIAL, MR. PRIME
MINISTER, OF WHETHER YOU DO INDEED HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

PRIME MINISTER RABIN: I HAVE SAID WE ARE A NON-NUCLEAR
COUNTRY, THAT WE WILL NOT BE THE FIRST TO INTRODUCE. I
DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU WANT ANY MORE.

MR. CLARK: I WANT YOU TO SAY THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE NU-
CLEAR WEAPONS IF INDEED YOU DO NOT.

PRIME MINISTER RABIN: THIS IS THE INTERPRETATION OF WHAT
I HAVE SAID.

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